



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- MISSOURI FIELD OFFICE
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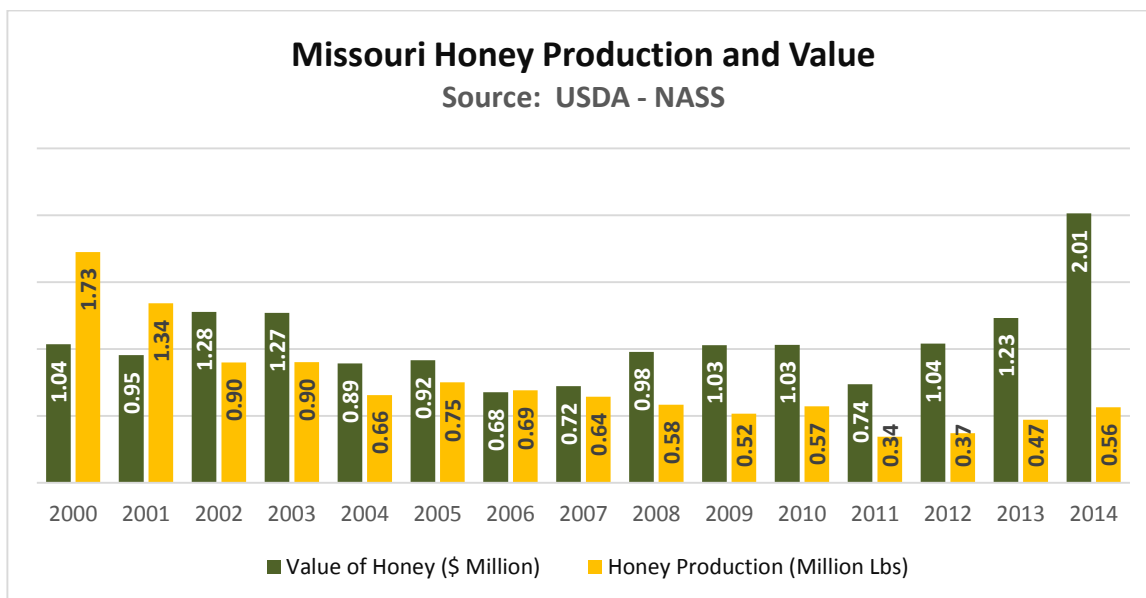
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USDA SURVEYING BEE AND HONEY OPERATIONS

Columbia, MO – Starting in mid-December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure bee colony inventories, cost of pollination, honey production, and also colony loss data during a nationwide survey.

“Interest in honey production, along with concern about the health of the bee population, continues to grow all around the country,” said Missouri State Statistician Bob Garino. “The USDA’s Bee and Honey Surveys give producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions of their bees and the impact on honey production.”

“Typically, we focus our efforts on larger honey producers but this year we are adding hundreds of smaller producers to our sample. It’s important to know what happening with this group of producers as well as from larger, commercial producers,” said Garino.



Beginning in the middle of December, Missouri operators will be asked to provide information about their bee colonies, stocks of honey on hand, and production and prices received for honey in 2015. In Missouri, NASS will contact more than 1,400 operations to request their responses to the survey.

“Honey production in Missouri is about one-third of what it was fifteen years ago. Data collected on these surveys will help the USDA and industry better understand colony health and honey production in

the state,” Garino said. “The information can also help create public appreciation for the many benefits of U.S. bees and their products,” he added.

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate in the survey, NASS offers the option of responding via the Internet, telephone, mail, or a personal interview with a local NASS representative.

Garino noted that, as is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. “NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified,” he said.

NASS will publish the survey results March 22, 2016, in the *Honey* report. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014.

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